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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme Trends and Prospects

(Statement by the Secretariat
to Committee II)

1. This statement covers, very briefly, the general trends in the work of the Social Affairs Section of the secretariat, since its establishment in 1959; and it dwells, in particular, on the programme of work and projects sponsored by the Social Affairs Section during the past year, since the last Session of the Commission. In this connexion, the attention of the Committee is drawn to Resolution 88 of the Fifth Session, whose timely requests to the Executive Secretary, in the substantive fields of planning, organization and financing of social welfare programmes within the framework of national development plans, have provided not only a new basis for the work of the Section but also the impetus for a critical review of the policy objectives and priorities of the Section's work programme, in relation to the entire field of social development in Africa.
2. The main task of the secretariat, however, is to introduce to you the new structure of the Social Affairs Section, the proposed objectives for this year and for the years to come and how these objectives will be carried out in direct collaboration with the United Nations specialized agencies.
3. Finally, it will be the duty of the secretariat to request your comments, your advice and your support or mandate, in the form of

recommendations or resolutions, in respect of the new phase into which the work of the Social Affairs Section is about to enter, in its assistance to the Africa region, in the planning, organization and administration of social development programmes, within the context of an integrated economic and social development.

4. The work of the secretariat of ECA in the field of social affairs began with a request to the Executive Secretary, during the First Session of the Commission in 1959, to convene in that year "a small conference, or workshop on the organization of national community development programmes". This meeting was held in Addis Ababa, here, from 14 to 25 September 1959 and was attended by sixty-three participants and observers, including representatives from twelve member countries of the Commission and from the United Nations specialized agencies and other inter-governmental organizations. Since then, much of the work that has been carried out by the Social Affairs Section has originated from the 1959 Conference.

5. In July, 1960, a small social research unit was established and made responsible for general social research as well as substantive studies in connexion with programmes undertaken in the fields of social welfare and community development.

6. Social research projects carried out by this unit have included a study of the resettlement of Wadi-Halfa, necessitated by the building of the Aswan High Dam; a social survey of Addis Ababa in co-operation with the University College of Addis Ababa and a number of field studies on urbanization problems and on social aspects of economic development. At the regional meeting on Integration of Social Planning with Over-all Development Planning, held here in Addis Ababa, in October 1963, two monographs, based on studies on the subject, were prepared and submitted. At this meeting, the need for comparative studies of the evolution of land tenure systems and for inter-disciplinary research in social aspects of urban and rural development was emphasized. The report of this meeting is contained in document E/CN.14/240. Document E/CN.14/241, which you have before you, gives an account of a workshop on the role of women in urban development, held in Lagos, in September 1963, within the framework of the programme of work of the Section, on urbanization and the

problems created by the rapid growth of towns in Africa. Its chapters cover aspects of the traditional position of African women, their participation in industry and commerce, the position of African women in modern urban society, the problem of juvenile delinquency and education; and they set out a number of recommendations adopted by the workshop on these matters.

7. In the field of social welfare, the first project undertaken by the Section, was a workshop organized in Accra, in 1960, on the extension of family and child welfare services within community development. Then followed, in 1962, a meeting of experts on the organization and administration of social welfare services, which was held in Abidjan. One of the principal recommendations was that governments should be responsible for planning and establishing national social welfare programmes, taking into account local wishes and needs, and the part capable of being played by voluntary organizations. A seminar on training for social welfare services was held in Lusaka towards the end of 1963, bringing together directors of schools of social work and administrators of in-service training programmes. This seminar made a number of important recommendations in the training of social welfare and community development personnel at all levels much of which will be followed up during the coming year. Directors and administrators of social welfare programmes took part in a study tour in Ghana, Ivory Coast, Senegal and the United Arab Republic in the middle of 1963. Its purpose was to give them the opportunity of seeing and studying other national programmes and exchanging views within the group, as well as with social welfare officials in the countries visited.

8. A study of national social welfare and community development programmes, including planning, financing and integration with over-all development planning, was undertaken in Ghana and in the United Arab Republic during 1963. Comparisons were made between the organizational structure of the Ministry of Social Affairs in the United Arab Republic and the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development in Ghana. Attention was drawn to the need for integrating the activities of all governmental agencies operating at the rural level within the planning agency.

9. Towards the end of 1963, a training course for government officials in the East Africa sub-region, responsible for the planning, organization, administration and implementation of community development programmes, was held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika. A study tour on community development methods and techniques was undertaken in Asia. In connexion with this study tour the secretariat arranged and brought together senior community development officials from ten African countries to visit and study the community development programmes in four selected Asian countries: India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.

10. In 1961, the Commission, at its Third Session, took a very important step towards the establishment of a permanent standing committee of the Commission. In its resolution 36 (III), the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to set up, in consultation with the specialized agencies, a regular committee of experts in the social welfare and community development fields, from the African States, "to study social welfare services, community development programmes (including economic aspects), the social aspects of urbanization (including housing), the training of personnel and the interdependence of these services in the establishment of national social development programmes in the African countries". By instructions of the Commission, this committee was to convene annually prior to the session of the Commission at the same place of meeting, and was to present recommendations in the substantive fields to the Commission at its Session.

11. Two sessions of this expert committee have so far been convened, in 1962 and 1963. The secretariat has this year found it necessary not to convene the annual meeting of this committee. At the close of the statement, when the Committee has had the chance of examining fully the expanded scope of the new structure, the objectives and the work programme of the Social Affairs Section and of the secretariat's expanded activities in the field of social development, you may wish to give consideration to the adoption of a recommendation for the establishment of a standing committee for social development, composed of governmental representatives in the substantive fields, - expanding the terms

of reference of the existing expert committee and having the same standing as any of the permanent standing committees established under rules 67 and 68 of the rules of procedure of the Commission.

12. As a result of an evaluation exercise which took place in 1963, the focus of the fields of activity of the Social Affairs Section will be oriented, in the coming years, to give increasing attention to the development of basic urban and rural social development programmes to meet contemporary African needs, problems and possibilities of the countries of the region, within the framework of integrated national economic and social policies. Various projects and activities, previously considered under "Community Development and Social Welfare", have been re-formulated to concentrate on planning, organizational and operational problems encountered by national governments in the development of their urban and rural social service programmes. This evaluation has led to a re-organization of the structure of the Social Affairs Section and a re-definition of its objectives and its programme of work and priorities. The new set-up of the Section, when it has achieved its full complement of staff, will have four inter-related operational units: Social Investigations Unit, Social Welfare Unit, Social Policy and Development Unit and Rural Life and Institutions Unit.

Social Investigations Unit

13. Through investigations and studies, as basis for regional advice and to support operational projects in the other units, the Social Investigations Unit will have responsibility for,

- (a) general and country studies of patterns of social service organization and administration developed or developing in the Africa region, including needs and priorities, scope, financing and methods of their integration with over-all national development planning;
- (b) intensive investigations into organizational and operational problems of specific urban and rural welfare services, in order to determine the scope of the problem, measures to be introduced and methods of operation, e.g. family, child and youth services; care of the aged, ill and the disabled; rehabilitation services for socially, physically and mentally handicapped; emergency relief services; community and neighbourhood centres; social medicine and medical social work; training facilities for professional social workers; services for prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency; social aspects of housing; social insurance and social security measures; agrarian structures; including land reform; rural welfare and rural socio-economic organizations;
- (c) studies of problems of social origin which affect industrialization or which arise from either industrialization or urbanization or both; and
- (d) production of monographs from studies and investigations undertaken. For example in 1964, 1965 and 1966, a directory of urban and rural welfare activities of national governments, United Nations specialized agencies and international voluntary organizations in Africa; a monograph on patterns of social welfare organization and administration in Africa; a monograph on social

work training facilities in Africa; a monograph on family, child and youth welfare services in Africa; a monograph on programmes for prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency; and a monograph on programmes for rehabilitation of handicapped persons in Africa, will be published and copies will be widely circulated in the region.

Social Welfare Unit

14. The Social Welfare unit will concentrate wholly on operational problems and projects of social work organization and administration within a professional framework of national and local government. It will be responsible for,

- (a) arranging regional meetings, training courses, workshops, etc., designed to bring together professional workers and administrators of national social welfare programmes and of particular urban and rural services;
- (b) maintaining close relations with national correspondents appointed by Economic Commission for Africa in the field of social work (21 already appointed), through advice assistance collection and dissemination of information on national programmes, legislations, etc.; and
- (c) maintaining close liaison with international voluntary social work agencies (14 to-date) with whom Economic Commission for Africa has established regular contacts, through mutual assistance and extension of their field programmes.

15. In 1964, a regional meeting on social defence will be organized, as a joint ECA/BSA project, to stimulate awareness and governmental action in the social defence field and to enlist the co-operation of experts in the region for an examination of the problems confronting African national governments in the development and administration of national programmes for the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the treatment of young offenders. This meeting, scheduled to take place in Monrovia, Liberia,

from 30 June to 13 July, is also being arranged as part of the inter-regional preparations for the Third World Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Stockholm, August, 1965).

16. In 1965, the Expert Group Committee on Social Welfare and Community Development will be convened to consider the types of social welfare services needed in Africa, their priorities and methods of meeting them and the problem of integration of social welfare services in over-all national development planning. A workshop on organization and administration of family, child and youth services (urban and rural) has also been earmarked for 1965.

17. In 1966, a regional workshop on organization and administration of programmes for the rehabilitation of the disabled; and a study tour in social defence have been earmarked.

Social Policy and Development Unit

18. The Social Policy and Development Unit, which is already in the process of organization, will derive the great advantage of direct advice and participation in its work from representatives of the United Nations specialized agencies and of UNICEF; and this unit will work in very close collaboration with the already established ECA/FAO Joint Division of Agriculture and the other divisions of the secretariat. A Regional Adviser on Social Development is also expected to be appointed to assist this unit. You will no doubt be glad to know that by an arrangement with each of the United Nations specialized agencies concerned, official representatives of ILO, WHO and UNESCO have been appointed to the secretariat, both to advise on and participate in work programmes falling within their respective fields of competency and to effect due liaison and relationship between their individual agencies and the Economic Commission for Africa secretariat as appropriate.

19. The Social Policy and Development Unit will give assistance to governments in the region, in the planning of social programmes needed to accelerate economic development, including the determination of needs and priorities in the formulation of social development objectives and

policies, the development of planning methods and programming techniques in the social sectors and the evaluation of the implementation of social programmes. The unit will undertake comparative analysis and evaluation of social aspects of African development plans, and will undertake studies of ways and means of developing human resources for economic and social development and of dealing with the social aspects of urbanization and industrialization.

20. In collaboration with the other units of the Social Affairs Section, this combined unit will attempt to define the specific problems and needs of age groups and special groups, with which African governments are faced -- for example, problems and needs of infants and children, of school children, of youths and adolescents, of the aged and of special groups such as the delinquent or the child in need of care and protection, the physically handicapped and the destitute. The problems and needs of each of these groups will be considered as a whole, as regards their health needs and priorities, their educational needs and priorities, their pre-vocational training, labour and employment needs and priorities, and the combined effort will be made to exploit the resources of the United Nations family, as well as outside technical assistance, in bringing assistance to governments through programmes and services designed to meet those specific needs.

21. To illustrate this inter-disciplinary approach, it is envisaged, for example, that under the programme of problems and needs of African children, the joint approach will endeavour to tap the assistance of the World Health Organization and UNICEF in defining the problems of high infant and child mortality rates, particularly in rural Africa; the main communicable diseases which afflict African children; and the appropriate measures to be taken in meeting the health needs of African children. The same approach will encourage the assistance of FAO, WHO and UNICEF in tackling the problems of food and nutrition for African children and the appropriate measures that can be taken to meet the nutritional needs of African children. The assistance of UNESCO and UNICEF will be needed to define the basic problems and difficulties of educational needs of

African children and the action measures to be taken. The training and employment problems and needs of African families will be clarified with the assistance of ILO; and the united and co-ordinated assistance of the various agencies and of Economic Commission for Africa will be needed to define measures that can be taken to meet the social welfare needs of the African family and child; and the special needs of the blind, deaf and dumb, the crippled, etc. This same combined approach will be utilized in defining the problems and needs of the African school child, the young worker and the aged.

22. In 1964, as part of the general study of Family, Child and Youth Welfare Services in Africa, a sub-regional study will be undertaken in the methods and techniques in planning and financing of Family, Child and Youth Services and their integration in over-all development planning in Uganda, Tanganyika, Kenya and Northern Rhodesia. This study will be repeated for the Central African countries in 1965.

23. A study of Income Distribution and Levels of Living in Northern Rhodesia, will be undertaken by the Economic Commission for Africa sub-regional office at Lusaka.

24. A study in social development objectives and policies in the formulation of social development programmes needed for accelerated economic transition in Africa will be undertaken, as a joint-project in collaboration with the specialized agencies. This study will provide the basis for the Expert Group Committee meeting in 1965, on types of social welfare services needed in Africa, their priorities and methods of meeting them; and the problem of integration of social services in over-all national development planning.

Rural Life and Institutions Unit

25. The Rural Life and Institutions unit was formerly known by the designation of community development. Its work and philosophy have been re-fashioned to concentrate on,

- (a) giving assistance to governments to generate the development of active rural life and institutions to meet contemporary needs, with the fullest possible involvement of the local rural people themselves; and,
- (b) undertaking studies and investigations of socio-economic situations encountered by national and local governments in the process of rural development.

26. The new policy is based on two factors:

- (a) knowledge of the basic contemporary needs of rural communities in Africa; and
- (b) measures and methods by which, utilizing the stimulated initiative and actions of the rural peoples themselves, the levels of living and the welfare of rural people can be improved, through their increased participation in development.

27. Contemporary needs of rural communities. We start from the knowledge that the felt needs of rural communities in the economically under-developed countries of Africa are primarily:

- (a) Obtaining sufficient land and its improvement for better production, to ensure a minimum decent living for the peasant and his family.

This is the basic rural social problem to be tackled, without which national and regional programmes of mass education, nutrition, home economics, etc., would be superficial and meaningless. Problems connected with land tenure are very diverse, since in the various countries of Africa, land tenure and usage systems are determined by different political, demographic, economic and historical factors.

Improvement of land tenure systems or practices can play a dual role in promoting rural welfare - by itself, it is a means of achieving rural welfare objective, through re-distribution of income, and its improvement makes it possible for other activities aimed at rural welfare to establish and function effectively, e.g., co-operatives, nutrition, home economics, mass education. These problems connected with the land need be studied in depth, country by country, and advice as well as assistance given to the governments, since their satisfactory solution is fundamental and a pre-requisite of any effective work for the welfare of rural people.

- (b) Obtaining water for irrigation and for drinking.

This comes second in order of priority.

- (c) Obtaining adequate credit facilities (Capital Formation) for production purposes.

- (d) Roads, to gain access to market centres and marketing facilities.

- (e) Health and nutrition: schools and educational facilities.

28. Measures and methods by which levels of living of rural people can be improved.

- (a) First and foremost, by direct governmental action, where necessary, to improve agrarian systems and ensure improved production and minimum reward for peasant labour.
- (b) Through programmes of "Rural Animation", "Rural Action", "Community Development" with primary economic objectives, a local co-ordinated effort of stimulation of rural initiative, changing of those attitudes and practices which are obstacles to social and economic improvements, engendering particular attitudes which are conducive to socio-economic improvements and the promotion of greater awareness and receptivity to change.

- (c) Development of responsible and responsible village leadership and of village organizations and institutions. The development of village leadership for planning and stimulation of initiative for action must come from the existing and (later) newly-developed leaders of the villages. Likewise, much of the responsibility for continuous planning, stimulation and developmental action must come from the village-created and village-led organizations, such as traditional groups, co-operatives, mutual credit societies and women's groups.
- (d) The purposeful co-ordination of action of the technical services of agriculture, husbandry, health, education, etc., into one single organ of rural development at the local level; and the provision of combined technical services in ways which encourage village initiative, self-help and mutual aid.
- (e) Fostering the development of co-operative and mutual aid undertakings and the establishment of various rural socio-economic organizations, co-operatives for production, marketing and consumption, agricultural credit and mutual aid societies, etc..

N.B. The work of the Rural Life and Institutions unit will of necessity, link up closely with the work of the ECA/FAO Joint Division, and it will include studies in field organization for rural development, training of "rural action agents", co-ordination of technical services and their orientation to rural welfare work. A manual of work programme and field instructions is under preparation.

29. Activities sponsored by this unit will be undertaken as a joint and co-ordinated effort with the Social Policy and Development Unit, embracing the United Nations specialized agencies.

30. In 1964 and 1965, an inter-disciplinary study of the problems encountered by the rural populations of Mali, Niger and Upper Volta, in their economic and social development, will be undertaken with the

assistance of the ECA/FAO Joint Agriculture Division. It is also hoped to give some assistance to FAO in the organization of an African regional meeting on rural life.

Training for Social Work

31. There is an obvious need to intensify various types of in-service training programmes for all levels of social workers, including trainers and welfare administrators, in the Africa region. The role of the Section in this matter will gradually shift from actual training projects to the strengthening of existing schools and institutes (or bringing into being new institutions), preferably on sub-regional basis, so that each sub-region becomes self-sustaining in its training needs. In collaboration with the training institutions, the Section could help in formulating new courses or new content of existing courses. It could also assist member countries to take advantage of regular or ad hoc training courses mounted by schools and institutes in the region and overseas. As immediate objectives, the Section will pursue,

- (a) the establishment of sub-regional training centres for social work, with the assistance of the Bureau of Social Affairs, UNICEF, UNESCO and the International Association of Schools of Social Work, for intermediate and supervisory-level training;
- (b) training for instructors in social work and specialized training for administrative, professional and technical staff responsible for organization and operation of social welfare programmes; and
- (c) assistance to individual member governments in the organization of periodic in-service training courses for social workers, including voluntary and auxiliary workers.

32. In 1964, a technical training course on Institutional Treatment of Juvenile Offenders will be organized for officers in charge of institutions for treatment of juvenile offenders (borstals, industrial schools,

remand homes) from fifteen selected African countries, to give them the opportunity of learning modern practices and exchanging views on the management and running of such institutions, as well as review their role in the treatment of young offenders. This training course will take place at the Cairo National Centre of Social and Criminological Research. A second training course for instructors in social work and administrators of in-service training programmes is also scheduled. A consultant team will be appointed to evaluate the curricula, staff and training of twelve schools of social work in the region, to advise on their strengthening and the development of sub-regional programmes for training of intermediate and supervisory-level professional workers.

Advisory services to the region

33. On request, assistance will be given to member governments in planning the organization and administration of national programmes and special social welfare services, through direct technical assistance, and through encouraged affiliations with, and assistance from, various international social welfare associations and agencies and in collaboration with the specialized agencies.

34. In 1964, one Regional Adviser in Social Welfare will be appointed and attached to the Tangiers ECA sub-regional office, to make professional advisory services more easily accessible to governments, to liaise regularly with ECA and co-ordinate efforts of governments at sub-regional levels. One Regional Adviser on Rural Life and Institutions will be appointed and posted to work with the Section in 1964. One Senior Social Affairs Officer has, in 1963, been attached to each of the sub-regional offices at Niamey and at Lusaka. In 1965, a second Regional Adviser in Social Welfare will be appointed and posted to the Section for general regional services, with particular reference to Family, Child and Youth Welfare Services. Also in 1965, a Social Development Regional Adviser will be appointed, to offer advisory service

(either on individual basis or as member of a team) to governments, on request, on social development planning, including the evaluation of the implementation of social programmes and estimation of needs.

35. Direct contacts with technical assistance experts in the field of social welfare, in the Africa region, will be established and maintained; and regular contacts and relations will continue to be established with international voluntary agencies in the field of social welfare, to develop greater interest in the region, seek their assistance in focussing attention, where appropriate, on the particular needs of the Region and possibly extending their activities to countries in the Region where they are needed - also the co-ordination of their interests with those of ECA and the utilization of their facilities for international service, for regular and special training courses, for professional conferences and seminars, for field studies and researches and for general public education. Direct working relations have been established with twenty such international voluntary agencies.

36. National correspondents will be appointed in each member country, in order to facilitate the collection and exchange of information on developments in the substantive fields of social welfare, social defence, etc.. In 1963, national correspondents were appointed in Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Cameroun, Dahomey, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Nyasaland, Mauritius, Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia, Togoland, Tunisia, Upper Volta and Zanzibar.

37. A directory of social welfare activities in Africa, of United Nations agencies, UNICEF, WHO, ILO, FAO and UNESCO and of international voluntary agencies will be compiled.

38. A register of institutes and schools of social work in Africa, giving details of facilities for training, syllabuses, etc., will be prepared and maintained.

39. Assistance will be given to governments, on request in the formation of national councils and federations of social work.

40. It will be the constant concern of the various units of the Social Affairs Section, performing as a united front, to bring under review from time to time the various objectives and programmes outlined above. This will have the advantage of giving better direction and the right impact needed on the African social scene; and it will lead to the determination of those specific areas, in the Section's programme of work and priorities and its advisory services, which need strengthening of re-formulating.

41. Finally, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, from the account which has been given of the proposed re-organization of the secretariat's machinery and the intensification of its work programme in the social development field, the Committee will no doubt have taken due note of the following matters, in respect of which it may wish to comment, discuss or advise, or give recommendations for the guidance and direction of the secretariat:

- (1) The advisability or otherwise of extending the terms of reference of the expert committee and of establishing a permanent committee of the Commission on social development aspects, which will be an inter-governmental body; which will advise the Commission at its annual sessions on any steps it considers essential in promoting balanced social development in relation to over-all development on a national, regional and sub-regional basis; which will advise the secretariat on the annual programme of work in the field of social development; and which will co-operate closely with other standing Committees of the Commission with the view to achieving co-ordination in the implementation of programmes of balanced social and economic development. In this connexion, the Committee may wish to be reminded of a recent resolution of the Economic and Social Council, Resolution 975 (XXXVI), which urged the Regional Economic Commissions to include in their programmes, social and economic projects that contribute to economic development,

and to make all necessary provisions for effectively discharging their responsibilities in the social and economic fields.

- (2) Secondly, the Committee may wish to consider the advisability of the secretariat's pursuing the re-organization and strengthening of the Social Affairs as have been outlined.
 - (3) Thirdly, the Committee may also wish to comment on specific aspects of the objectives and priorities in the tasks of the Section, as have been outlined.
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